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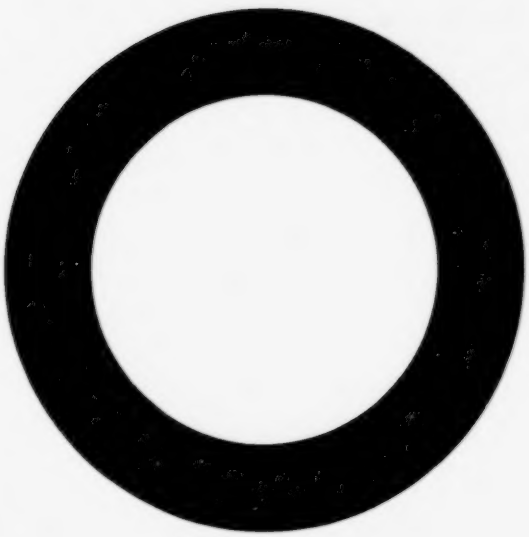

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR NATIONAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC SURVEYS

The development process in any country requires that a continuous and up-to-date assessment to be made of the state of the national economy. One of the most useful means of making such an assessment is in the form of an annual survey of the economy. Such a survey which can be looked upon as a descriptive interpretation of the economy should be given a wide public circulation to help meet the demands both inside and outside the particular country for the information contained therein.

To prepare such an annual survey requires the backing of an efficient organisation which is able to make available early and continuously the essential statistical data, it also requires the fullest cooperation of the ministries responsible for economic subjects and of the larger private organisations, the statutory authorities and the central bank.

An examination of the economic and statistical reports (including development plans) of most of the countries in Africa shows that the majority would be able to prepare surveys covering the suggested outline given later in this document. Provided there is an efficient statistical department and a specialist unit responsible for the survey, an annual survey could be prepared fairly early in the year succeeding that to which it would relate. Such a survey together with an essessment of the current years trends is in any event required for the preparation of the Budget in the country concerned and the timing of its publication would probably be decided in practise by the date of the Budget speech or statement.

A further reason for the preparation of an annual economic survey is to provide a means of checking on the progress of the development plan in the particular country and of providing basic information for essential plan revisions. Development planning covering both public and private sectors is increasingly being used in the countries in Africa and in this process there is a movement towards the preparation of five-year plans.

The growth of sub-regional cooperation in Africa has already started and the more fundamental subjects such as transport, trade, multinational industries and monetary affairs must be tackled urgently to speed up the growth rates of the particular sub-regions. Lack of basic data will impede the movement towards effective cooperation and this is a further reason for ensuring that all countries are able to make available up-to-date information on their economic progress.

At present only a limited number of countries in Africa publish annual economic surveys although there are others which publish annual statistical summaries or abstracts. It is possible that lack of professional staff or an inadequate appreciation of the value of the information which is given in an annual economic survey is holding up the movement towards the preparation of such surveys. However the more fundamental reasons for making use of scarce professional personnel to prepare such surveys are as follows:

(a) The survey provides a means of checking on the progress of the economy;

(b) it is fundamental for preparing the annual budget of the central government;

(c) the data collected to prepare the survey is essential for making revisions to development plans and for preparing new plans;

(d) it helps meet the requirement to provide data for international agencies including aid donors;

(e) it provides essential economic information of interest to potential investors.

The personnel responsible for the preparation of an annual economic survey must have access to the relevant statistical data and should also be involved in the development planning process. Whilst a specialist unit for the annual survey of the economy could be sited in the statistical department it would probably be more effective occupying an intermediate position between statistics and planning. As the survey is in any event, essential for the preparation of the annual budget, there is some merit

in siting the unit in the Ministry of Finance although where a Ministry of Economic Affairs exists siting here would probably be just as effective. The actual siting would be decided by the organisation of the government machine in the particular country, but with the movement towards sub-regional cooperation and possibly towards coordination of plans and their timing, it appears to be essential for all countries to provide administratively for a permanent unit which could cover economic surveys and the preparation of similar economic material on a continuing basis.

The suggested outline of the annual economic survey by headings is given below. Where practicable, statistical data should be presented according to recommended international standards and in the standard forms adopted by the United Nations.

1. Introduction, this should give a broad summary of economic trends including an appraisal of how the growth of the economy compares with the planned growth. Some emphasis should be given on how world economic conditions have affected the particular country with special reference to external trade and ability to obtain aid and capital. Any important changes such as exchange rates for the currency, the creation of new organs of development or a fundamental change in the political scene should be described. A short assessment of the economic outlook for the current year should be included.

2. Population, the information here should cover the latest estimates of population and growth rates, a broad indication of the sex and age distribution and of the division between rural and urban population, and an estimate of persons in wage employment by industrial sector together with wages and salaries paid.

3. National Income (for last three years) this should cover the Gross Domestic Product at factor cost in total and its breakdown by industrial sector, personal consumption, government consumption and investment. For the latter the level of gross fixed capital formation by industrial sector and type of asset should be given. Income per head should be shown together with data on changes in consumer prices and wholesale prices index numbers.

4. External Trade (for last three years) to cover total imports and exports and trade balances; the main items exported; the main items imported and by commodity groupings; and the major trading partners. Trade with African territories should be emphasised and details of membership of Customs Unions, Economic Communities or Other Economic Areas in Africa specified together with recent developments. Membership of trading areas outside Africa or special relationships should be given (e.g., EEC, Commonwealth etc.). International Commodity Agreements of special interest should be shown.

5. Production

A. Agriculture, the summary should cover the major crops showing the output of commercial crops for the latest three seasons and giving information on consumption crops; in the case of livestock total herds and estimated slaughterings should be shown; for fishing an estimate of production should be given and for forestry the latest estimates of the area of forests, the production of wood by type and its disposal.

Details should be given of the processing of the output of agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing.

In general major new developments should be outlined.

Special reference should be made to the transformation of the subsistence sector, to the development of cooperatives, marketing, credit and extension services, and the use of modern inputs such as fertilizers, machinery and better seeds. Details of such items as settlement schemes and irrigation projects should also be given.

B. Mining. This should cover the production of major minerals and their disposal, new developments, prospecting and new discoveries.

C. Manufacturing, here the production of major items or by the main industrial groups should be shown; new developments including multinational plans should be outlined. Details of the framework for progress i.e., project investigations, assistance and guarantees for private investors, industrial promotion, industrial development organisations etc. should be described.

Developments in the field of small scale industry and the methods of assistance should also be covered.

Details where available of import substitution developments and the growth of exports should be given.

D. Energy Industries, this should cover the development of electricity supplies and consumption including major projects, and the development of oil refining and patterns of consumption. (Crude oil production and coal output should be covered under mining). The international aspect of energy distribution should be included.

E. Building and Construction and Capital Formation. The structure of the building and construction industry together with output figures should be described. Some indication of the industry's ability to produce the results required by the planned investment should be given. The availability of local supplies for the construction industry should also be covered together with the trend in building costs.

6. Transport and Communications, this should cover the development and maintenance of the road system including progress on international links and opening up various region within the country, details of road vehicles licensed, new registrations and road motor services. For the rail system new developments should be described together with traffic statistics and those of the rolling stock. With waterborne transport details of developments on inland waterways and of seaborne transport should be given including port and harbour statistics and the growth of local shipping lines. The development of air transport covering internal and international services and the growth of airport traffic should be described. Pipelines are now being used within Africa and the necessary details should be given. Some commentary on the development of telecommunications and postal services should be included.

7. Commerce, a description of the existing trading system, of new developments including the more active participation of Africans in commerce and the growth of state trading bodies should be covered. Special emphasis should be made of the trade in agricultural produce and any figures

of turnover included. Some commentary on the existing price control mechanism together with action taken to contain or reduce existing price levels should be included.

8. Tourism and Personal Services, this should cover the development of tourism particularly as a source of foreign currency (or of foreign currency savings), and the available and planned facilities.

9. Education, the progress made towards the goal of universal primary education, the development of secondary, technical, agricultural, professional and higher education should be described and the latest enrolment statistics (covering three years) given.

10. Health, details of the progress towards improved health services including the development of services in the rural areas should be given together with statistics of medical personnel and hospital facilities. A note on the development of local training facilities should be included. Details of any special problems or prospects e.g., T.B. surveys, bilharzia or malaria eradication schemes should also be covered.

11. Housing and Urban Affairs, a brief outline of developments in this field should be attempted.

12. Investment and its Financing, the following main headings should be covered:

(a) the total investment annually over the latest three years, the methods of financing and if available the relationship of the results achieved to those anticipated;

(b) planned investment for future years and methods of financing;

(c) external aid by donor (e.g., UN, USAID, EEC, FED, FAC, etc.) received and expected;

(d) foreign lending to the public sector;

(e) private investment capital flows;

(f) internal savings;

(g) Industrial and Agricultural Development Banks and Corporations;

(h) Central Bank and Commercial Banks; money in circulation; external assets and liabilities: internal assets and liabilities.

13. Public Finance, this should cover for three years the Recurrent Budget and Expenditure, the Development Budget and Expenditure and the Public Debt. Details of the balance of payments and international indebtedness should also be given.

14. Economic Planning and Statistical Services; this heading should cover:

(a) the formulation of new long term plans, new annual plans and the revision of existing plans;

(b) manpower planning, existing and recognised future shortages of local personnel for higher and middle grade posts and proposals for filling gaps including the use of technical assistance;

(c) statistical services for economic development, the organisation, current work and shortages;

(d) economic services for development planning, the organisation, current work and shortages.

15. Bibliography - a list of economic and statistical publications issued in the last three years including those issued by such bodies as Central and Commercial Banks, large private firms and statutory bodies.